

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-08 EB-11 IO-14 OIC-04 SP-03 AID-20

NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 OMB-01 CEA-02

SWF-02 AGR-20 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-03 L-03

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 /153 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 6088

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PFOR, XM, ETRO, OVIP (EBERLE)

SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON MTN - EBERLE VISIT TO ARGENTINA.

REF: STATE 076664

1. SUMMARY: ARGENTINE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE "UNOFFICIALLY" REACTS ADVERSELY TO PROPOSED EBERLE VISIT. TERMS VISIT TO ARGENTINE ILL ADVISED ON PART USG IF EBERLE NOT PREPARED TO DEAL WITH US AUTO FIRMS/ARG/CUBA TRADE ISSUE AND OTHER WISE CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO RESOLVE BILATERAL ISSUES IN WAY CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVE US/ARGENTINE RELATIONS. TETTAMANTI TONIGHT SEEKING OFFICIAL GOA VIEWS. VISIT MAY BE ENDANGERED.

2. ECOM COUNSELOR AND COM ATT BY PREARRANGEMENT MET WITH SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE TETTUMANTI AND UNDER SEC FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS (FORMIN) BECHMAN AT 6 PM APRIL 16 TO FINALIZE PLANS FOR EBERLE VISIT. EMBOFFS PRESENTED SUGGESTED AGENDA CONTAINED REFTEL AFTER DETERMINING ARGENTINE OFFICIALS HAD NOT PREPARED LIST OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOPICS FOR DISCUSSIONS, THOUGH THEY HAD UNDERSTOOD

CLEARLY GENERAL PURPOSE OF VISIT FROM PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, FOR THIS AND CANCELLED WASHINGTON TRIP. TETTAMANTI REACTION TO AGENDA WAS TO TERM IT INADEQUATE IN TERMS OF CURRENT US/ ARGENTINE BILATERAL ISSUES.

3. AT FIRST HE MERELY STATED BILATERAL ISSUES MUST HEAD AGENDA. THEN, WARMING TO HIS PRESENTATION HE ASKED AGAIN IF EBERLE WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO RESOLVE ISSUES SUCH AS CUBAN TRADE INVOLVING US SUBSIDIARIES. WHEN EMBOFFS INDICATED THIS SUBJECT NOT IN EBERLE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AS ADVISED TO EMBASSY AND EBERLE VISIT MAINLY INTENDED AS FULFILLMENT USG PROMISE AT MEXICO MFN MEETING TO CONSULT FULLY WITH LA GOVERNMENTS ON BILATERAL AND UNILATERAL TRADE ISSUES, TETTAMANTI VEHEMENTLY STATED HE EXPECTED REACTION IN ARGENTINA WOULD BE STRONGLY ADVERSE IF US OFFICIAL OF EBERLE RANK AND STATURE COME ON OVERLY BRIEF VISIT WITHOUT ENGAGING AND MAKING PROGRESS ON VITAL BILATERAL ISSUE. SAID EBERLE COULD NOT EXPECT AVOID PRESS QUESTIONS ON CUBA TRADE ISSUE AND THAT GOA WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEMPT TO PLACE PLEASANT FACE ON RESULTS OF VISIT OR EXPRESS SATISFICATION WITH IT IF NOT REP NOT SATISFIED. SAID GOA MUST CONSIDER ANOTHER TENTATIVE DISCUSSION ON MTN SUBJECTS AND STRATEGY OR UNCOMPLETED US TRADE LEGISLATION AS INCONSEQUENTIAL AND NOT WORTHY OF EBERLE VISIT IN PRESENT CONTEXT.

4. TETTAMANTI SEVERAL TIMES CLARIFIED FOR EMBOFFS HE WAS NOT SPEAKING OFFICIALLY FOR GOA. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED HE WOULD ADVISE ECONOMIC TEAM (HEADED BY GELBARD) IN MEETING LATER APRIL 16 THAT EBERLE VISIT APPARENTLY NOT INTENDED DEAL WITH BASIC BILATERAL ISSUES AND WOULD GIVE EMBOFFS GOA OFFICIAL REACTION AT MEETING HE REQUESTED AT NOON MARCH 17.

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COMMENT:

5. TETTAMANTI PRESENTATION MAY HAVE BEEN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS IN GOA EFFORT PRESSURE USG RESPOND FAVORABLY TO CUBAN TRADE ISSUE AT WASHINGTON MFM. HE WAS RIGHT IN HIS ASSESSMENT OF HOW ARGENTINE PRESS,

PREVIOUSLY CONDITIONED BY VIGNES AND GELBARD REMARKS, WILL PLAY THE EBERLE VISIT. EMBASSY

HOPES GOA ECONOMIC TEAM WILL NOT BACK MOVE TO
CAUSE CONFRONTATION. CANCELLATION OF
EBERLE VISIT MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IF
WASHINGTON AND ATLANTA CONFERENCES ARE AS FAR
AS ARGENTINA CONCERNED UNSUCCESSFUL.
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